

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

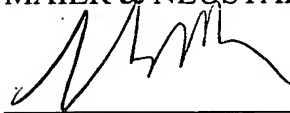
Initially, it is noted that the Examiner has apparently inadvertently failed to initial JP 7-107687 (reference "AO") in the PTO form 1449 filed on January 19, 2006. It is respectfully requested that this be corrected.

Claim 11 has been allowed, and has now been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15 and 17-19 now depend from Claim 11 and are believed to be allowable. Claim 20 has been amended to recite the patentable feature of Claim 11, i.e., that the thickness determining means includes an opposing surface defined on a surface of each of the magnets opposed to the rotor or the stator and having a radius of curvature that is smaller than the radius of the rotor or the stator, and that a gap is defined between the rotor or the stator and the opposing surface of each of the magnets. The rejection of Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over JP 7-107687 in view of Yamada et al is therefore believed to be moot.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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